

647 their career and the assurance of a good income for the meagre appointments as an official. It is sufficient just to glance at the statistics of the Russian Empire in order to realize what a gigantic increase in the development of civilization was reached by the effort of the Russian intellectuals and specialists. Public instruction had developed in these fifty years to an enormous extent, [871] infant mortality had fallen by more than 60 per cent, [165] epidemics had experienced a great fall, as also cattle diseases, and the yield of the land had increased in the [164] southern regions by more than 30 per cent. The improvement of the different breeds of horses and cattle was [232] already evident on the eve of the Great War.

206 The backward country which Russia was supposed to be in the eyes of Westerners, including also the Ukraine, had in 1912 a big network of telephone lines in the country and especially in the region of Vinnitza, where the organization of the Zemstvos was especially active.

505 As to the river system, as we have already seen, it is very poor and is limited to four rivers, the Dnieper, the Dniester, the Boug, and the Donietz, of which the Dnieper alone is of any interest. The transport capacity of this one important river has been for ever spoiled by the rapids which make navigation impossible along a [503] considerable distance. It is only after the building of the *Dnieprogues*, whose gigantic barrage had submerged the rapids along a distance of about one hundred kilometres, that an uninterrupted river route was established, linking the upper Dnieper with the Black Sea.

This river drains the greater part of the Ukraine and has left its mark upon the whole historic and economic evolution of the country.

Before the Great War the annual tonnage of transports

132 49.3°. Drawbacks for agriculture in New Russia are the prevalence of north and east winds and an irregular and insufficient rainfall. The average rainfall at Yelisavetgrad is 17 in., at Odessa 16 in., at Lugansk 15 in., and at Nikolaev 14 in. The rains in April and May decide the harvest. June is the rainiest month, but from May to September there are droughts. Most places are largely dependent upon wells and ponds constructed in the ravines, which are frequent on the steppes.

The climate of the Ukraine, as a whole, is therefore continental, i. e. the variation between summer and winter temperatures is very great. Sudden variations of temperature are frequent. The rainfall is by no means abundant, and there is a progressive decline towards the south and south-east. The fact, however, that the bulk of the rainfall occurs in the summer favours agricultural operations, even where the annual amount of rainfall is comparatively low. It is only in New Russia that the country suffers seriously from drought.

(4) SANITARY CONDITIONS

312 The Ukraine is very backward in regard to sanitary
314 conditions. Less than half the towns have a satisfactory water-supply, and a very small percentage of them a regular drainage system.

164 Typhoid, diphtheria, and malaria are very prevalent.
758 To the great majority of the people in the country, doctors are inaccessible, and even in the towns good hospitals and adequate medical attendance are very rare. In the matter of cleanliness, however, the Little
515 Russians compare favourably with the Great Russians.

(5) RACE AND LANGUAGE

Race

142 The population of the Ukraine is composed of
513 a mixture of various races and nationalities, those chiefly represented being Little Russians, Poles, Jews,

-76-

262 Expectant and nursing mothers are usually at work, and have standard
 745 leaves with pay and special privileges; thus, if working, they receive
 434 rations appropriate to the occupational group, plus special food allowances; and if not working, dependents' rations plus these allowances. The supplements are as follows, monthly: cereals, 1.2 kilograms; butter (or substitute), 0.8 kilograms; sugar 0.6 kilograms; vegetables, 2.0 kilograms; milk (fresh or dried) 12 litres. Their approximate calories from rations alone are, therefore:

If light workers	1,682 plus 512 =	2,194 calories daily
If employees	1,144 plus 512 =	1,656 " "
If dependents	704 plus 512 =	1,216 " "

In the last case it is almost possible to assume that the husband is well paid and will be able to buy products in the open market.

262 Even if the established ration scales for all groups could be met, they would not provide an adequate, balanced diet. Particularly the rations for women and children are very light in fat, first-class protein, and calcium. They provide less than half the low League of Nations standard for daily full-cream milk requirements of the expectant mother. But even these inadequate scales are seldom supplied.

262 Since mid-October 1946, the honouring of ration cards has, because
 434 of the increasing food shortages, become more and more irregular. In December 1946, for instance, large groups of persons in the Kiev area received only bread, sugar, and a few tins of vegetables on their cards. No meat, fish or fats were available. By the middle of January 1947, the situation had grown even more stringent, and only bread was supplied on the ration.

At the same time, the amount of food available off the ration has decreased almost to the vanishing point. Cereals and white bread have practically disappeared from the open market; and when they are available, the price is beyond the reach of the average person.

262 The effects of the poor diet are already to be seen. The people
 181 generally show a noticeable lack of their former liveliness, energy and
 144 cheerfulness. Moreover, according to the Medical Officer of the
 369 UNRRA Mission to the Ukraine, clinical starvation has made its appearance in the smaller villages of the Republic: protein dropsy and beriberi are increasing; and among the townspeople there is great incidence of skin infections and respiratory and nasopharyngeal conditions.

645 In order to meet some of the medical aspects which may arise out of
 744 the present food situation, the Ministry of Health has taken the following
 262 steps.

— CZECHOSLOVAKIA —

361 is a wide boulevard bordered with beautiful flowers. Across the river,
341 to the left from a bridge, is a colourful little church in Russian style—a miniature replica of a Moscow *cerkev*—a piece of the Orient in a western setting. It is a delightful building coloured in dull red and white, and has a burnished cupola at the top which reflects the sun in a dazzling blaze. The interesting ikons in the interior match the fairy-tale beauty of its exterior. What a lively contrast to the dignified, twin-spired Greek Catholic cathedral and the surrounding ecclesiastical buildings on the opposite side of the river.

162 There are at least four religions in Užhorod, as well as in other
563 Ruthenian towns, and five languages are spoken there—Ruthenian, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian and Yiddish.

135 While Ruthenia has no mineral wealth comparable to that of
Slovakia, it supplies the entire Republic with salt. In the eastern tip of the country, right on the Rumanian frontier, there are huge deposits of mineral salt in the neighbourhood of Siatinské Doly. Although only two mines are now being worked, the annual output amounts to about 120,000 tons of salt. The huge vaulted caves of these mines afford an imposing view from a gallery which rises at a considerable height above the bottom where the miners quarry large blocks of rock-salt, cut them into small blocks, and have them hoisted through the shaft to the surface. The mineral salt which is crushed in a salt-mill is only slightly impure and requires little cleaning.

317 Salt represents the mineral wealth of Carpathian Ruthenia. But it
is a commodity which the poor Ruthenian peasants and wood-cutters
263 cannot afford. In order to spice their simple and meagre food the countryfolk journey a day or two to a pool of salt-water to fill a barrel with the liquid salt.

178 To appreciate the degree of progress Carpathian Ruthenia made
during the twenty years of its association with Czechoslovakia, one has
511 to bear in mind the condition of this forgotten country when it first
185 appeared on the map as a political unit. The dire poverty, the low standard of education among the majority of the population, lack of cultural amenities, infectious diseases due to abominable sanitary conditions, inadequate communications, economic and political exploitation—all these factors made the life of the Ruthenians under the Carpathian mountains rather desolate.

President Masaryk once said that thirty years of peaceful, reasonable and energetic development would be needed to make the Czechoslovak State secure and happy. Carpathian Ruthenia certainly needed thirty, if not more, years of peaceful, reasonable and energetic development to emerge from her condition of poverty and primitiveness.

744 One of the worst evils was the appalling sanitary conditions in
164 Ruthenia. The rate of infant mortality was among the highest in

— CZECHOSLOVAKIA —

744 Europe; and many people used to die every year from tuberculosis and
164 other chest complaints. Severe epidemics—typhoid and dysentery—used
146 to ravage the country every year; inadequate regulation of rivers and
stagnant waters gave rise to malaria; undernourishment of large sections
of the population was responsible for sporadic pellagra. Venereal
diseases were a curse owing to lack of medical attention and of appro-
priate legislation.

744 This enormous task was tackled with commendable vigour by the
authorities of the Republic. In a country which used to have very few
185 doctors, a proper medical service was soon organised; up-to-date hospitals
and children's homes were built; Red Cross stations and other hygiene
and welfare institutions, set up in many parts of Ruthenia, strove to
prevent and combat disease. This systematic effort resulted in a sub-
stantial reduction of mortality, while the draining of marshlands and the
regulation of streams and ponds considerably checked epidemics.

185 Realising that ignorance is the root of many social evils, the State
regarded the raising of the standard of education in Ruthenia as one
871 of its foremost tasks. The achievements in this field were perhaps the
most striking. A country, which in 1918 had not more than eighteen
elementary schools where children were only partly taught in
Ruthenian, possessed 520 Ruthenian schools two years later; and after
fifteen years of independence this small country in the Carpathians
could boast 1,079 schools of various kinds—elementary, upper, second-
ary, technical and special schools. The magnitude of this achievement
becomes evident when it is borne in mind that it was necessary to
educate the requisite number of Ruthenian teachers from among the
rising generation.

871 Thanks to these efforts illiteracy among the younger people has
become rare. Those Ruthenians who according to the last census of
212 1930 were still unable to read and write were largely middle-aged or
185 old people. But even among them illiteracy has been considerably
reduced because evening schools for adults were opened wherever pos-
517 sible. The people of Ruthenia proved to be keen pupils. Within a
few years the neglected country had a promising intelligentsia—admin-
istrative workers, teachers, journalists, writers, doctors, engineers,
composers, artists and scientists. In the thirties more than eighty
periodicals, among them ten dailies, appeared in Ruthenia, and the
production of books grew from year to year. The innate aptitude for
arts and crafts was given a chance of development when a special art
school was established in Užhorod, and musical talent, too, received
much encouragement. As many as 7.7 per cent of all musical com-
positions and songs broadcast by Czechoslovak radio stations were the
work of Ruthenian musicians.

000 Economic development was essential to a country where bread used